

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the withdrawal of claims 99 and 100 is requested. The system clock is independent of the transport path. But the at least one desired point-in-time is dependent on the transport path. For example, a longer transport path would result in a sheet arriving at sensor, for example, at a later point-in-time. Thus the desired point-in-time which is determined is being appropriate is dependent on the transport path. But the system clock is independent of the length of the transport path. Of course the desired point-in-time is referenced to the system time. Reconsideration is therefore requested for claims 99 and 100 which should not be withdrawn.

As to claim objection to claim 50 see, for example, the Substitute Specification at page 9, line 31 through page 10, line 5. For a given transport path length, it is desired that a piece of paper reach a sensor in that transport path, for example, at or until a desired point in time. See for example, dependent claim 52 wherein the desired point-in-time is a point-in-time at which an edge of the single sheet should arrive at the sensor at a latest. As explained at the above indicated portion of the specification, the actual arrival time is compared to the desired arrival time and corrections can be then made so that the actual arrival time coincides with the desired arrival time.

As to claim 52, this claim was amended as suggested by the Examiner.

As to claim 54, antecedent basis has been provided for the sensor in claim 50.

As to claim 60, the desired point-in-time is calculated.

As to claim 64, it is a computer program element.

As to claim 70, an interrupt signal simply is a signal which triggers a routine such as a computer program which changes the speed of the motor driving the paper based on the actual arrival time versus the desired arrival time.

The Examiner rejects claims 50-72 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by Soler.

Claim 50 distinguishes over Soler at least by reciting dividing a system time of the printer or copier that is the same for at least first and second control units to a printer or copier and establishing at least one desired point in time at or until which at least one sensor signal generated from a sensor is expected or at least one actuator is expected to be activated dependent on the transport path, the desired point-in-time being referenced to the system time of the printer or copier. The Examiner cites Soler column 9, lines 15-45 and column 13, lines 1-50. But here there is no mention whatsoever of the same system time. There is only a disclosure of control signals being sent out. Next, the Examiner relies on column 10, lines 47-54 which only talks about directing a sheet to one path or another depending on whether one side or two side images are being formed (simplex versus duplex). There is no disclosure whatsoever of establishing at least one desired point-in-time at or until which at least one sensor signal generated from the sensor is expected or at least one actuator is expected to be activated dependent on the transport path where that desired point-in-time is referenced to the system time. The Examiner does not rely upon any other portion of Soler specification description with respect to claim 50.

Soler discloses a printing or copying system comprising several control units which provide different control functions for the operation of the printing or copying system. A sync signal is provided for synchronizing the control units to a printing process. Based on this sync signal, various time periods are determined such as

$T_{\text{Feed, Pre}}$ (column 12, lines 50 to 60). Thus, it is only known from Soler to provide time periods required to wait based on the sync signal to be generated for each single sheet. Neither the same system time for at least two control units is known from Soler, nor is such a system time required or actually possible given the control philosophy according to Soler.

The subject matter of the method according to claim 50 differs from the method suggested by Soler at least in that a system time of the printer or copier is provided which is the same for at least a first and a second control unit of the printer or copier and in that at least one point in time is determined at or until which at least one sensor signal is expected or at least one is activated dependent on the transport path, the desired time being referenced to said system time of the printer or copier. The system time is a time basis for the control process of the printer or copier.

By means of the inventive provision of the system time of claim 50 for at least two control units and the determination of points in time at or until which a sensor signal is expected or at least one actuator must be activated, it is not necessary to start one or a plurality of timers and to monitor their running. Rather, the determined points in time can simply be compared with the actual system time. When reaching a point in time, it can then be checked whether the sensor signal to be monitored is present, or an actuator will be activated when the point in time is reacted.

In the Office Action it is mentioned that in Soler a transport path for the duplex operation is created by switching a gate. However, nothing is said in Soler on how this gate is switched. In particular in Soler no point in time referring to a system time is provided. A possible solution could be a mode-dependent switching of the gate or the switching of the gate dependent on a sensor signal. A time-wise control of the gate is not at all required in Soler. Thus, it is only known from Soler that

several processors work together in a printing or copying system for controlling the same and that these processors are synchronized with the aid of a sync signal for a print job for printing a single sheet. Dependent on this sync signal, merely timers having a predetermined time period each are started and their running is monitored. Thus, from Soler no fixed system time is known. Even if an identical system time for at least two control units were known, it is neither known nor suggested to determine transport path dependent points in time referring to the system time. However, it is exactly the determination of the points in time what makes a chronological order/sorting of these points in time possible so that only the respective next point in time has to be monitored by a comparison of the point in time with the system time.

Once again, it is noted that the system clock is not a system time. It is true that a system clock can be used for generating a system time, however, this is not known from Soler.

Dependent claims 51-71 distinguish at least for the reasons noted with respect to claim 15 also by reciting additional features not suggested.


Device claim 72 distinguishes at least for the reasons noted with respect to claim 50.

Claims 99 and 100 distinguish at least for the reasons noted with respect to claim 50.

Allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment to account No. 501519.

Respectfully submitted,

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